

Gimme Shelter

News from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter

Loudoun County Department of
Animal Care & Control

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The 12 Days of "Cat-mas"

"Twas the night before Cat-mas when all through the house not a kitten was stirring nor chasing a mouse..." Virginia Unser

The weather is turning colder, and our thoughts turn to warm nights inside by the fire. If you have been thinking of bringing a feline friend into your home, this is the perfect time! There are many cats and kittens at the Loudoun County Animal Shelter hoping to find warm, cozy homes with families to love them.

To help make it even easier for you to make a cat part of your family, we are introducing the **"12 Days of Cat-mas" December 10th through the 22nd**. During these 12 days, we will **waive the spay/neuter cost** for any cat or kitten adopted from the Animal Shelter. That means that cats/kittens will have an adoption fee of only **\$10**. Members of our Gray Whiskers Club (cats age 7 or older) will be discounted to only **\$5**.

Cats outrank dogs as America's #1 pet, and it is easy to see why. They may have the reputation for being aloof, but that's often far from true. Cats are affectionate, playful, and loyal. They make wonderful pets, and their natural independence often means they are easier to care for and adapt to our busy schedules.

Cats never require a 5am walk for a "potty break," and are most content indoors enjoying nice long naps. They don't need to be housebroken, and instinctively know to use a litter box.

Cats can also be left alone for longer periods of time (as long as the food, water, and litter box are well attended). They are happy to entertain themselves, though they often enjoy having a kitty companion to pal around with. They also love to spend time with their favorite humans, whether curled up in your lap or purring at your ankles.

If you haven't discovered the joy of having a cat in your life, or are looking for a companion for your favorite kitty, then come to the Animal Shelter during the "12 Days of Cat-mas", December 10-22. Your purr-fect pet is here!

12 Cats Looking for Homes



Holiday Pet Pantry

The holidays are a time to remember those in our community who are less fortunate, and pets are no exception. Loudoun County Animal Care & Control is proud to announce that they are again joining the Community Holiday Coalition to host a Pet Pantry to provide donated pet food and supplies to families in need during the holiday season.

Families who are picking up food, clothes, and toys at the Holiday Coalition Store will also be able to visit the Pet Pantry for pet food and supplies. This is the third year for the Pet Pantry, and in 2006, 545 pets received food, treats, and toys through the program.

The Pet Pantry is part of Loudoun

County Animal Care & Control's award-winning CARE program, which works year-round to assist low income citizens with pet care needs such as medical assistance, low cost spay/neuter surgery, and pet food. Information will be made available about the CARE program for those that need additional assistance throughout the year.

The Pet Pantry is stocked solely through donations from citizens and businesses. The Loudoun County Animal Shelter is accepting donations of unopened pet food, treats, and new or gently used toys through December 17. Cat and small animal food is in especially high demand.

The Community Holiday Coalition's



Christmas Store is happening December 13-18 at the Dulles Trade Center in Sterling.

For more information on the Community Holiday Coalition and the Pet Pantry, visit www.loudoun.gov/animals. You can also contact Animal Care & Control at 703-777-0406 or via email at animals@loudoun.gov.

Puppy Mill Dogs Come to Loudoun

Animal Care & Control has assisted the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) in its efforts to rescue nearly 1,000 dogs from an alleged "puppy mill" in Hillsville, Virginia.

Animal Care & Control staff traveled to Hillsville on November 8, to assist with housing and care for some of the dogs and puppies that were seized. A number of dogs were brought to the Loudoun County Animal Shelter, where they are undergoing medical and behavioral evaluations before being placed for adoption.

The dogs appear to be in general good health, however they are scared and in need of socialization. They will require time to acclimate to their new surroundings and get used to being with people. Many of the dogs are unaccustomed to handling and to being in environments outside of a kennel.

The Department's animal care staff and volunteers are working to socialize the dogs and prepare them to become pets. Each dog is progressing at his/her own pace, and some will require more rehabilitation than others. These dogs are expected to continue to have special needs in their new homes, and specific adoption requirements may be put in place to address each dog's individual physical and behavioral needs to ensure appropriate placement.

These dogs and puppies are being made eligible for adoption as they are ready, and are posted on the department's website as they become available.

Some of the dogs have already found new homes, while others are still waiting for that special someone. Visit www.loudoun.gov/animals for updates on these and all dogs looking for new homes!



Belle is a 3 year old female Jack Russell Terrier from Hillsville looking for a new home!

Employee of the Month

Angie Robinson is November's Employee of the Month! Angie has been with the Department for 2 1/2 years, and works as an Animal Care Technician.

Angie consistently provides outstanding care to the animals in the Shelter. She always puts the needs of the animals first, and works with compassion and understanding. Angie has a positive, can-do attitude, and she inspires a sense of teamwork with her colleagues.

She is always willing to step in to help with programs and events, and serves as an important member of the Department's Recognition Committee.

Angie's efforts and attitude demonstrate her dedication and commitment to help and care for the animals housed at the animal shelter.

Thank you Angie for all you do!



Congratulations Angie!

What We're Up To...

The Chips Keep on Coming

89 animals were microchipped at our November 10 clinic. These pets are now permanently identified and can be returned to their owners should they come to the Animal Shelter or be found by an Animal Control Officer. Our next clinic will be on **Saturday, March 1, 9:00am-12:00pm, at the Animal Shelter**. Thank you also to the wonderful people at Banfield in Leesburg for assisting with the microchip clinic!

The Power of Volunteers

Animal Care & Control would like to extend a very special thank you to one of our star volunteers. Cat Cuddler **Lisa Beckner** recently took an interest in the upcoming Holiday Pet Pantry, and worked in her community to raise interest and awareness in the program. Her efforts resulted in many donations of food, treats, gift cards, and a \$500 check to help stock the pantry!

Thanks Lisa!



The Animal Shelter has lots of bunnies looking for homes. Pictured above is Carmel, a 4 year old neutered male, who loves stuffed animals! Come visit him!